REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated January 12, 2006. Claims 1 to 3, 6 to 19, 22 to 33, 40 to 48 and 50 are now pending in the application, with Claim 51 having been canceled. Claims 1, 17, 33 and 50 are the independent claims herein. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

The Office Action entered a restriction requirement between Claims 1 to 3, 6 to 9, 22 to 33, 40 to 48 and 50, and Claim 51 and also entered a constructive election of Claims 1 to 3, 6 to 9, 22 to 33, 40 to 48 and 50. Without conceding the correctness of the restriction, Claim 51 has nonetheless been cancelled herein.

Claims 1 to 3, 6 to 19, 22 to 33, 40 to 48 and 50 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,670,974 (McKnight) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,147,687 (Wanderski) and U.S. Patent No. 6,297,821 (Baker). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

The present invention concerns displaying information about peripheral devices on a display screen. According to the invention, when an instruction to invoke a program for displaying information of a peripheral device is issued, information of the peripheral device (e.g., status information or alert information) stored in a resident memory is read from the memory and is displayed on the display screen prior to invoking the application and before a process to obtain information from the peripheral device is completed. Then, the display is updated so that the obtained status or alert information of the peripheral device is displayed. As a result, the previously stored information of the device can be displayed before the application is invoked and before the process to obtain the information from the peripheral device is completed.

Referring specifically to the claims, amended independent Claim 1 is an information processing apparatus that activates an application for displaying on a display screen information of a peripheral device that communicates with the information processing apparatus a communication link, comprising storage means for storing information of the peripheral device that communicates via the communication link in a resident memory, obtaining means for obtaining status information or alert information of the peripheral device through the communication link in response to an instruction to invoke the application, first display control means for displaying the information on the display screen of the peripheral device that communicates via the communication link according to information stored in the storage means prior to invoking the application in response to the instruction to invoke the application and before the obtaining means completes obtaining the status information or the alert information of the peripheral device from the peripheral device via the communication link, and second display control means for updating a content of the information displayed by the first display control means according to the status information or the alert information of the peripheral device obtained by the obtaining means in response to completion of a process for obtaining at least one of the status information and the alert information of the peripheral device from the peripheral device via the communication link.

Amended independent Claims 17, 33 and 50 are method, computer program and apparatus (in non-means-plus-function form) claims, respectively, that substantially correspond to Claim 1.

The applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of Claims 1, 17, 33 and 50. More particularly, the applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of displaying information of a peripheral device stored in a resident

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memory on a display prior to invoking an application to display the information in response

to an instruction to invoke the application and before completing a process for obtaining

status information or alert information of the peripheral device from the peripheral device

via a communication link in response to the instruction to invoke the application, and

updating a content of the displayed information according to the obtained information in

response to completion of a process for obtaining at least one of the status information and

the alert information of the peripheral device from the peripheral device via the

communication link.

The Office Action again more or less admits that McKnight fails to teach

displaying information of a peripheral device previously stored in a storage means before

an obtaining means completes obtaining information of the peripheral device on a network.

However, the Office Action again alleges that McKnight mentions the efficient displaying

and updating of information. Therefore, the Office Action cites Wanderski as allegedly

teaching such a feature.

As Applicant understands Wanderski, it discloses that a user copies files

from a CD-ROM to a storage device. An updated view of the file hierarchy is displayed in

time increments, even though other updates to the hierarchy may still be pending. Thus,

the user can interact with the newly-installed files even while other files may still be in the

process of being copied. As such, Wanderski is merely directed to copying of files and

displaying a file hierarchy, whereas the present invention features displaying information of

a peripheral device stored in a storage means prior to invoking an application in response

to an instruction to invoke the application and before completing a process for obtaining

status or alert information from the peripheral device. This process is simply not taught by

either McKnight or Wanderski. Accordingly, the proposed combination of McKnight and Wanderski would not have resulted in the presently claimed invention.

Additionally, the Office Action more or less concedes that McKnight and Wanderski do not disclose updating content of displayed information in response to completion of a process for obtaining alert or status information of a peripheral device, and instead relies on Baker for this feature.

As Applicant understands Baker, it merely discloses a control system for a mailing machine including a user interface, a display, and a memory having a screen region storing "screens" with pre-function data and background function data which may be displayed. Thus, while Baker may disclose communicating with outside devices as needed for processing of functions, nothing in Baker suggests receiving alert or status information from the devices. In particular, the only updating seen in Baker is based on information from the "screens", which are stored in the memory of the mailing machine and are thus not peripheral devices. In contrast, the present invention features updating displayed information in response to completion of a process for obtaining at least one of the status information and the alert information of the peripheral device.

Thus, none of the applied reference, either taken alone, or in any permissible combination, are seen to disclose or to suggest at least the features of displaying information of a peripheral device stored in a resident memory on a display prior to invoking an application to display the information in response to an instruction to invoke the application and before completing a process for obtaining status information or alert information of the peripheral device from the peripheral device via a communication link in response to the instruction to invoke the application, and updating a content of the displayed information according to the obtained information in response to completion of a
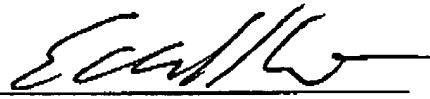
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process for obtaining at least one of the status information and the alert information of the peripheral device from the peripheral device via the communication link.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, amended independent Claims 1, 17, 33 and 50, as well as the claims dependent therefrom, are believed to be allowable.

No other matters having been raised, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward A. Kmett
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 42,746

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-2200
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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